

Appl. No. 09/448,378  
Amdt. dated January 12, 2005  
RCE filed January 12, 2005

## 2. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Previously presented) A method for augmenting an immune response in a patient having a cancerous or neoplastic disease, comprising the steps of administering flt3-ligand to the patient in an amount sufficient to generate an increase in the number of the patient's dendritic cells and administering a tumor antigen to the patient.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 6, further comprising the step of administering ~~one or more of the molecules selected from the group consisting of GM-CSF, IL-4, TNF- $\alpha$ , IL-3, c-kit ligand, and fusions of GM-CSF and IL-3.~~

8-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering flt3-ligand to the patient in an amount sufficient to enhance the patient's immune response to such disease and administering a tumor antigen to the patient.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the flt3-ligand is soluble human flt3-ligand.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand is recombinant flt3-ligand.

25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises ~~has an amino acid sequence~~ a polypeptide that is ~~encoded by a polynucleotide sequence that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to, and is at least 90% identical to, a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to XYaa of~~

Appl. No. 09/448,378  
Amdt. dated January 12, 2005  
RCE filed January 12, 2005

SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is ~~an amino acid from 163 to 231~~, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.

26. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 24, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises ~~a polypeptide an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to YXaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.~~

27. *(Cancel)*

28. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 26, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:1.

29. *(Cancel)*

30. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 26, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-182 of SEQ ID NO:1.

31. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the flt3-ligand is human flt3-ligand.

32. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 31, wherein the flt3-ligand is soluble human flt3-ligand.

33. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 32, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand is recombinant flt3-ligand.

34. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 33, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises a polypeptide ~~has an amino acid sequence that is encoded by a polynucleotide sequence that hybridizes under moderately stringent conditions to, and is at least 90% identical to, a nucleic acid that encodes an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to YXaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.~~

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Appl. No. 09/448,378  
Amdt. dated January 12, 2005  
RCE filed January 12, 2005

35. *(Currently amended)* The method of claim 33, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises ~~a polypeptide an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of amino acids 28 to Xaa of SEQ ID NO:2 and amino acids 28 to YXaa of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein Xaa is an amino acid from 163 to 231, and Yaa is an amino acid from 160 to 235, and wherein the polypeptide retains the capacity to bind flt3.~~
36. *(Cancel)*
37. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 35, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-160 of SEQ ID NO:1.
38. *(Cancel)*
39. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 35, wherein the soluble human flt3-ligand comprises the amino acid sequence of residues 28-182 of SEQ ID NO:1.
40. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 6 wherein the cancerous disease is a tumor.
41. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20 wherein the cancerous disease is a tumor.
42. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 40 wherein the tumor is a fibrosarcoma.
43. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 41 wherein the tumor is a fibrosarcoma.
44. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 6, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said tumor antigen.
45. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 6, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.
46. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered prior to administering flt3-ligand.
47. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered concurrently with flt3-ligand.

Appl. No. 09/448,378  
Amdt. dated January 12, 2005  
RCE filed January 12, 2005

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48. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 6, wherein the antigen is administered after administering flt3-ligand.
49. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said tumor antigen.
50. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.
51. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered prior to administering flt3-ligand.
52. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered concurrently with administering flt3-ligand.
53. *(Previously presented)* The method of claim 20, wherein the tumor antigen is administered after administering flt3-ligand.
54. *(Withdrawn)* A method of treating cancerous or neoplastic disease in a patient in need thereof comprising administering flt3-ligand to the patient, isolating dendritic cells from the patient, exposing the dendritic cells to a tumor antigen, and administering the dendritic cells to the patient.
55. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 54, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of a tumor cell bearing said antigen.
56. *(Withdrawn)* The method of claim 54, wherein the tumor antigen is in the form of an isolated tumor antigen.